

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 EB-07 /029 W

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R 270903Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4711

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

UNCLAS RABAT 1052

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP MO

SUBJECT: TEXTILE MACHINERY, COTTON GINNING EQUIPMENT TRADE MISSION

REF: STATE 42289

1. TWO SPINNING MILLS MENTIONED REFTEL BELIEVED THOSE PLANNED AND DESIGNED UNDER DIRECTION US CONSULTANT FIRM RALPH E. LOPER (SUBSIDIARY LOCKWOOD-GREENE). LOPER WILL OR HAS SELECTED ALL MACHINERY FOR BOTH PLANTS. TEAM LEADER DISCUSSED PLANS WITH EMBOFF LAST FALL AND AT THAT TIME IN RESPONSE TO DIRECT QUESTION STATED THAT IN LIGHT OF US PRICES, UNSUITABILITY OF US MACHINES FOR FINE, HIGH QUALITY LUSTROUS FIBER TO BE USED, AND OTHER PROBLEMS, IT LIKELY LITTLE OR NO US ORIGIN EQUIPMENT WOULD BE USED IN THE MILLS. ACCORDING TO LOPER REPRESENTATIVE, MILLS BEING DESIGNED FOR SPECIALIZED OUTPUT HIGH QUALITY COTTON CLOTHING USING EGYPTIAN QUALITY COTTON FOR AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN MARKETS.

2. PLANS CALL FOR LATER CONSTRUCTION TWO WEAVING MILLS TO HANDLE SPINNING MILL OUTPUT. LOPER REP THINKS US FIRMS MIGHT GET PORTION OF THAT BUSINESS IF LOPER GETS CONTRACT. SAID HE HAD SEARCHED ENTIRE RANGE OF POSSIBILITIES HONESTLY AND FAIRLY PERHAPS WITH SOME BIAS FOR US EQUIPMENT BUT FOR THIS PARTICULAR PLANT WITH ITS SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS US MACHINES NOT SUITABLE.

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3. TWO SPINNING MILLS REPRESENT ONLY A SMALL PART OF THE MOROCCAN TEXTILE INDUSTRY. THERE EXISTS SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OTHER TEXTILE COMPANIES AND OTHER PROJECTS IN PROSPECT WHICH WILL INVOLVE SHORT STAPLE NON-LUSTROUS COTTON WHERE US MACHINES CAN BE EFFICIENTLY USED. CONSIDERING THESE FACTS, INCLUDING FOLLOW-ON PROJECTS IN WHICH US EQUIPMENT CAN COMPETE (DYING, WEAVING, DRYING, CUTTING, FINISHING, ETC.), EMBASSY AND CONGEN BELIEVE TEXTILE MACHINERY MISSION WELL TIMED AND VISIT SHOULD PROCEED AS PLANNED.NEUMANN

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